

Growth Group Booklet

Term 4 | 2025



Name: _____



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Series Introduction

A crusty, angry man is walking along a road. He's on his way to a city where he knows there are lots of Christians. And he's going to round them up, pressure them to renounce their faith and bring them to trial. Some of them will die. He's okay with that. He's doing the Lord's work. But then, all of a sudden, everything changes. A light shines all around him and bowls him over. A deafening voice rings out around him, "Why are you persecuting me?" The Apostle Paul finds himself face to face with the risen Lord Jesus Christ and everything changes (Acts 9). The gospel changes everything.

The word 'gospel' means good news. It's the announcement of the world changing news of Jesus Christ, promised in the Old Testament, descended from David, who died for our sins, is risen from the dead and exalted at God's right hand. He now calls all people everywhere to repent and put their faith in Him to find forgiveness and new life forever. (Romans 1:1-6, Acts 17:30-31)

This good news changes everything. It changes the way we see ourselves, each other and the world. It has changed everything for Paul, and he's writing Romans because he wants it to change everything for the believers in Rome too.

When Paul wrote, the church in Rome was doing it tough. Scholars think the church was likely started by Jewish believers, who'd heard the gospel from Peter at Pentecost (Acts 2:8-11), come to trust in Jesus and then returned to Rome with the good news. After great riots erupted in Rome in AD49, the emperor Claudius expelled all the Jews (including Jewish Christians) from Rome for disturbing the peace. Just imagine what would happen if all

the leaders in your church were forced to leave town one day. The Gentile believers in Rome stepped up and took care of the church, until 5 years later Claudius died, and the Jews were allowed to return. It's not hard to imagine the joy, tensions, conflict and power struggles in the church when the ousted Jewish leaders turn up to church again.

So a few years later, Paul writes them the letter of Romans all about how the good news of Jesus changes everything. Paul is not writing an abstract theological treatise or a textbook for Bible College students and wanna-be reformers. He's writing a real letter to a real church to explain how the real good news of Jesus really changes everything.

Over the next few terms, we're going to let this great gospel letter change us too.

We're going to see how the good news of Jesus changes the way we view ourselves, understanding that we all fall short of the glory of God but can be made right with God by grace, through faith in Christ. United to him, Jesus sets us free to live in joyful obedience.

We're going to see how the good news of Jesus changes the way we view each other. The gospel is for everyone, no matter their status or circumstances. So the gospel calls us to humbly love one another with a Christ-like mindset. Instead of passing judgement on our fellow believers, we are to strive for peace and unity together, to the glory of God (Romans 15:5-6).

And we're going to see how the good news of Jesus changes the way we view the world. If the gospel is for everyone, then everyone needs to hear it! That's why Paul wants the believers in Rome to support Him as he boldly goes to preach the gospel in Spain, where no missionary has gone before (Romans 16:18-24). That's also why we want to see the people who live around us and around the world hear and understand the gospel.

As ministers of four sister churches across Queensland, in Graceville, Mackay & Sarina, Toowoomba, and Warwick, we have developed this series together because we are excited about how this powerful letter of Romans reveals the incredible truth of God's gospel to us.

In this series, we will see how we are:

1. Right Through Christ (Romans 1:1-5:11, Term 4, 2025)
2. Alive in Christ (Romans 5:12-11:36, Term 2, 2026)
3. Together with Christ (Romans 12:1-16:27, Term 3, 2026)

The good news of Jesus changes everything, we can't wait to see how God changes us through it together.

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." - Romans 1:16-17.

How to Use this Booklet

The best way to understand how these studies work is to assume we've written them for grown-ups! That is, we're making certain assumptions about adult education in the 21st century: that you're self-motivated and highly impacted by experience, that you learn well through discussion with other adults in a healthy and non-anxious setting, and that the primary role of the group leader is to facilitate the group's learning rather than having to teach it. This means that each week we'll follow a similar pattern, working through 6 Rs to help us reflect on, respond to and grow through God's word together. These are:

Reflect - Reflect on the last week of your life and share with the group a 'Good thing and bad thing' from the last week. Living together as God's people means sharing in the ups and downs of regular life, rejoicing with one another and being informed in praying for each other. Remember it doesn't all have to be serious!

Read - Hear God's word again together by reading this week's passage from Romans and the other Bible readings for this week.

React - God's word should provoke a reaction in us! Share what stood out to you as you read through these passages.

wRestle - God's word is something we should wrestle with together. These questions will help you to wrestle with the meaning of the passage together. (Yes, we know wrestle doesn't really start with an R.)

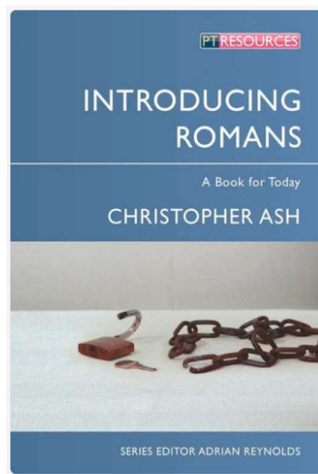
Relate - The gospel changes everything. These questions will help you to relate this part of God's word with our day-to-day life following Jesus. How does the gospel revealed in this passage change us and the way we live?

Respond in prayer - Spend time responding to God's word by praising God for who He is, confessing our sin, thanking God for what He's done, praying for one another and praying for those who still need to respond to the gospel.

Resources

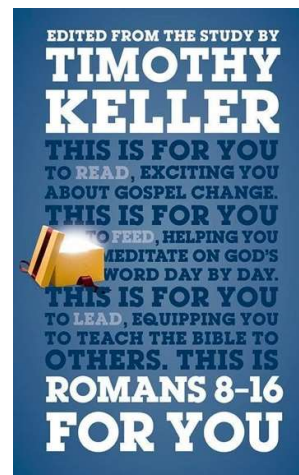
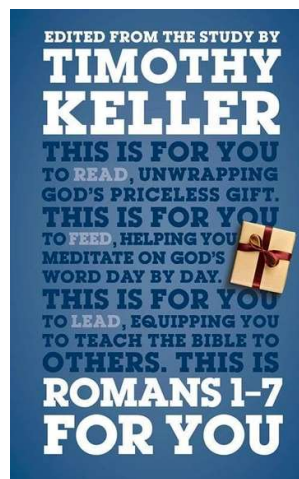
As we work through Romans over the next few terms, you may like to follow along with these optional resources.

For a small book to get an overview of Romans:
Introducing Romans
by Christopher Ash



To follow along through Romans:

Romans 1-7 For You and
Romans 8-16 for You
by Timothy Keller



Series Song

There Is Only One Gospel, by City Alight

Lyrics

Verse 1

There is one Gospel on which I stand
For all eternity
It is my story, my Father's plan
The Son has rescued me
Oh what a Gospel, Oh what a peace
My highest joy and my deepest need
Now and forever He is my light
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Verse 2

There is one Gospel to which I cling
All else I count as loss
For there, where justice and mercy meet
He saved me on the cross
No more I boast in what I can bring
No more I carry the weight of sin
For He has brought me from death to life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Verse 3

There is one Gospel where hope is found
The empty tomb still speaks
For death could not keep my Saviour down
He lives and I am free
Now on my Saviour, I fix my eyes
My life is His and His hope is mine!
For He has promised I, too, will rise
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Verse 4

And in this Gospel the church is one
We do not walk alone
We have His Spirit as we press on
To lead us safely home
And when in glory still I will sing
Of this old story that rescued me
Praise to my Saviour, the King of life
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

May God bless us, as his people, as we grow in our understanding of the gospel together and as He works through it to change us together.

Your Brothers in Christ,

Rev. Rohan Pieris, Graceville

Rev. Josh Rowe, St. John's on Geddes Toowoomba

Rev. Troy Wilkins, Mackay & Sarina

Rev. David Bailey, Rose City (Warwick)



Talk

1



Sunday following
12/10/2025

Romans 1:1-7

Big Idea: Paul greets the Romans with God's good news of the risen Jesus, calling all people to the obedience of faith.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 1:1-7

Psalms 110

2 Samuel 7:11-15

Acts 2:22-39

3. React

What stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

1. According to Paul, the gospel is about Jesus. What does the gospel say about Jesus in this passage?
2. The gospel is also something that God has done. List all the things that God has done or is doing in this passage.
3. What implications has the gospel had for Paul's life?
4. According to this passage, what claim does the gospel make on our lives?

5. Relate

1. How would you explain the gospel to someone? Split into pairs for 5 minutes and try to come up with your own, short gospel summary to share with the group. Did this passage influence your summary? If so, how?
2. What stops us from sharing the gospel with those around us? How can this passage give us courage to do so?

3. The gospel is good news about what God has done through Jesus, but it also calls us to the obedience of faith and to live as his holy people. How should Christians live differently to those around us and what should be our motive for doing so?

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

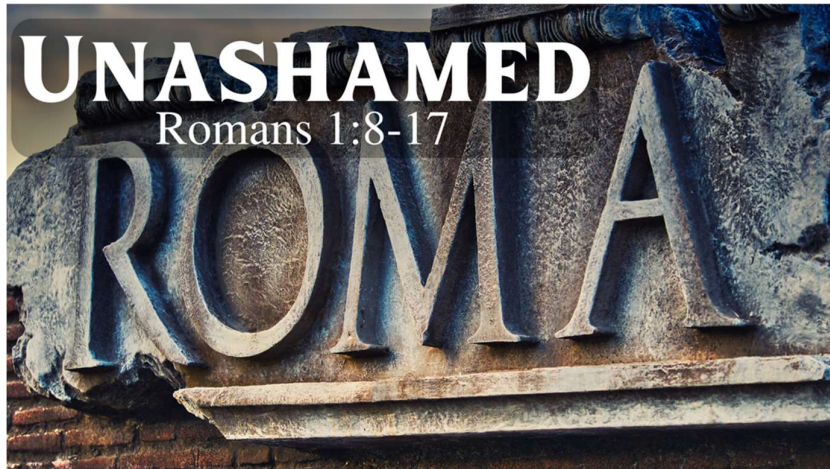
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Thanks:

Ask:

Talk

2



Sunday following
19/10/2025

Romans 1:8-17

Big Idea: The gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to all who believe, so Paul longs to proclaim the gospel in Rome.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 1:8-17

Psalm 67

Habakkuk 2:1-4

Matthew 15:21-28

3. React

What stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

1. How does Paul pray for those 'loved and called by God' in Rome? (v7-10)

2. What does Paul reveal from his heart, for the Romans? (v11-15)

3. How does 'the gospel' relate to Paul, to everyone who believes, and to Jew and Gentile? (v16-17)

4. What is 'revealed' in the gospel? (v16-17)

5. Relate

1. Listen to how Paul talks about God. How does Paul describe God? Relate to Him? Feel for Him? Compare this with how you talk about God. What prevents you talking about God the way Paul does?

2. Listen to how Paul talks to the Romans. What might be preventing you talking to your brothers and sisters in our church, like Paul does?

3. Discuss Paul's repeated 'righteousness' language in verse 17. What does God's righteousness have to do with us?

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

Praise:

Thanks:

Ask:

Talk

3



Sunday following
26/10/2025

Romans 1:18-32

Big Idea: We need the gospel because God's wrath is being revealed against humanity. We've foolishly exchanged the truth for a lie, and have been given over to shameful depravity

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 1:18-32

Psalm 14

Genesis 3:1-5

Mark 7:14-23

3. React

What stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

1. Why is God's wrath being revealed (v18)?
2. Why are people left with no excuse for our rebellion against God (v19-23)?
3. What is Paul's diagnosis of the heart problem which underpins sinful human behaviour (v22-25)?
4. How does this foolish exchange show itself in specific sinful behaviours, and in what sense is this also a present expression of God's wrath (v26-32)?

5. Relate

1. This passage provides a confronting analysis of human sin. To what extent does it ring true with what you see in our world today and in your own life?
2. Sexual sin is the cause of much confusion, struggle and hurt in the church today. How does this passage give us clarity on the essence of sexual sin and how to approach these issues through a gospel lens?

3. How does Romans 1 expose our desperate need for God's gospel and the salvation Jesus offers to sinners?

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

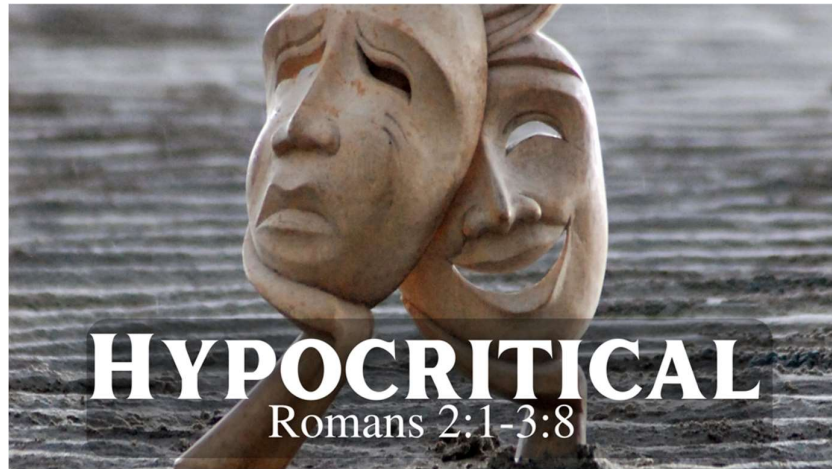
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Talk

4



Sunday following
02/11/2025

Romans 2:1-3:8

Big Idea: We need the gospel because God's wrath is being stored up against hypocrites who show contempt for his kindness by their unrepentance.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 2:1-3:8

Psalms 51

2 Samuel 12:1-14

Luke 18:9-14

3. React

What stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

1. Who is the 'you' Paul is addressing throughout chapter 2?
2. What future 'day' is Paul talking about? (v5-16)
3. What will God reveal on that day, and what will be revealed from people? (v5 and v16)
4. List some of the advantages the Jews had over us Gentiles, from this passage.

5. Relate

1. How does the backstory of David, Bathsheba and Uriah the Hittite highlight the problem of hypocrisy that Paul puts on centre-stage in chapter 2?
2. Where in this long part of Paul's letter does Paul hint at the solution needed?
3. Discuss the relationship between hypocrisy in our behaviour and contempt in our heart. How are these at work in your own life? And how can we apply the 'riches of God's kindness' to overcome them? Apply this solution together.

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

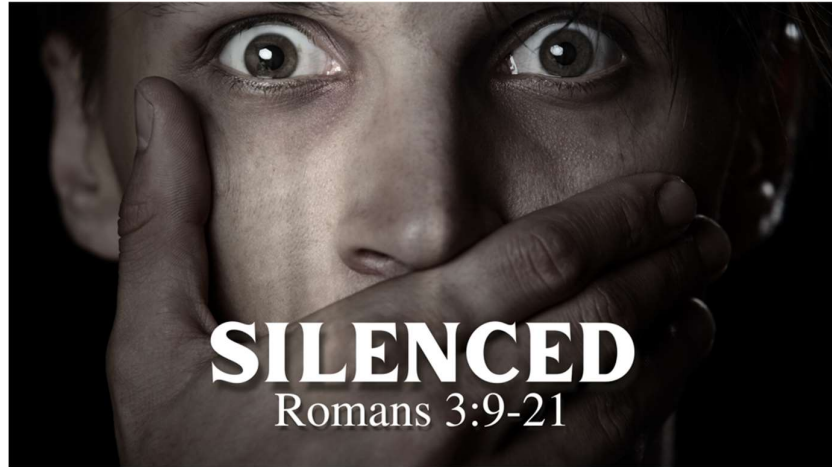
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Ask:

Talk

5



Sunday following
09/11/2025

Romans 3:9-21

Big Idea: Our sin leaves all of us utterly silenced before God and in desperate need of His righteousness now revealed in the gospel.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 3:9-21

Psalms 53

Isaiah 59

Matthew 23

3. React

What stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

Since chapter 1 verse 18 the Apostle Paul has been building on one main point and now, here in this chapter it reaches its conclusion.

1. What is Paul attempting to make clear in his conclusion? (v. 9)

2. What are some of the effects of sin on people's lives that Paul outlines in verses 10-18?

3. How do these Scriptures make sure no one will be able to protest their innocence on Judgement Day?
(v. 19)

4. What does the Bible do, and what can it not do? (v. 20)

5. Relate

1. What are some of the patterns of sin that you see play out in your life? For example, selfish behaviour in your marriage or friendships, excessive greed of possessions & money, unchecked surrenders to lustful thoughts & looks, or the patterns of sin that you accept in your life.

2. Why do you need the gospel?

3. How do you remind your heart of this when it is tempted to feel pride about your own goodness or despair about your sin?"

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

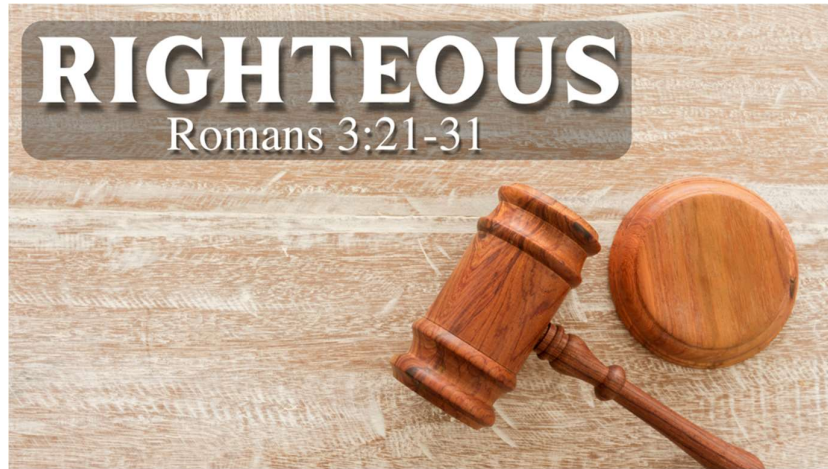
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Talk

6



Sunday following
16/11/2025

Romans 3:21-31

Big Idea: Through Jesus' sacrifice of atonement, God demonstrates his righteousness and graciously declares us righteous through faith.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 3:21-31

Isaiah 53

Leviticus 16

Matthew 27:11-26

3. React

What stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

In this passage, Paul tells us how God has revealed his righteousness and graciously declared us righteous through faith in Jesus.

1. What has God done to achieve this?

2. How does Jesus' death on the cross show us both God's grace and his justice?

3. How can we receive this?

4. What role does the Old Testament law and prophets play in this? What role can it NOT play?

5. Relate

1. What actually is faith? How would you explain it to someone?

2. How does this passage challenge us when we are proud of our achievements and tempted to boast in what we've done? How could we gently remind each other of this when we are proud?

3. How does this passage comfort us when we are discouraged, ashamed or tempted to despair because of our sin? How could we gently remind each other of this when we are discouraged?

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

Praise:

Thanks:

Ask:

Talk

7



Sunday following
23/11/2025

Romans 4:1-25

Big Idea: The God who gives life to the dead will credit righteousness to all who believe God's promises, not counting our sins against us.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 4:1-25

Psalms 32

Genesis 12:1-4, Genesis 15:1-6

Matthew 8:5-13

3. React

What stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

1. What were the promises God made to Abraham, and how was God effectively promising to 'give life to the dead' for Abraham and Sarah?

2. What did Abraham 'do' to be credited as righteous before God? (v1-5)

3. How does Paul show that David was credited as righteous before God? (v6-8)

4. How are the words 'it was credited to Abraham' also for us? (v9-25)

5. Relate

1. How is our faith in 'the God who raised Jesus from the dead' like Abraham's faith in 'the God who gave children to Sarah'?

2. How are you personally tempted to 'waver through unbelief' in the promises of God? How does temptation work in your life? Discuss which of God's promises you most struggle to believe.

3. How does the objective truth of verse 25 free us from wavering and fully persuade us?

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

Praise:

Thanks:

Ask:

Talk

8



Sunday following
30/11/2025

Romans 5:1-11

Big Idea: Through Jesus, we are loved by God and enjoy His peace, grace, hope and Spirit.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 5:1-11

Psalms 23

Numbers 6:22-27

Luke 3:21-22

3. React

What stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

1. What are the 3 wonderful blessings Christians enjoy as a result of being justified through faith (v1-2)?
2. Why are Christians able to rejoice or boast in their sufferings (v3-4)?
3. What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit according to v5?

5. Relate

1. How does enjoying peace and access to God shape your relationship with him?
2. Reflect with the group about how the gospel transforms our perspective on suffering. Have you experienced situations where God has helped you find joy in hardship, or used suffering to grow your perseverance and hope in Christ?

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

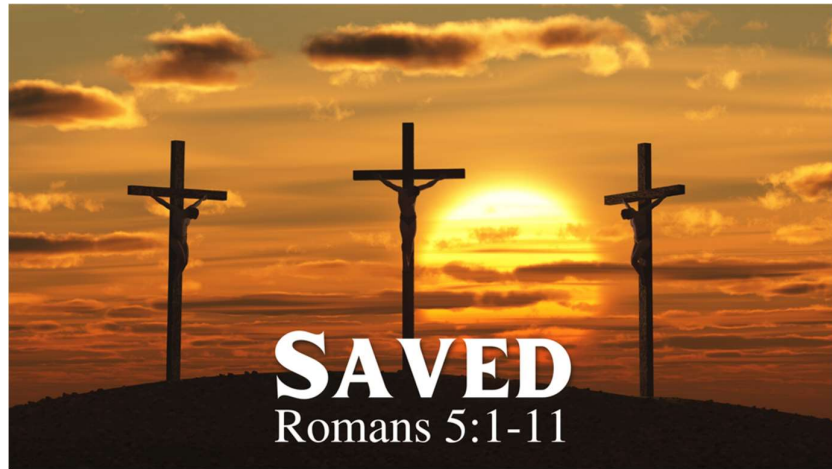
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Talk

9



Sunday following
07/12/2025

Romans 5:1-11

Big Idea: God demonstrates the greatness of his love through Jesus' death for his enemies, reconciling us to Him and guaranteeing our future salvation.

1. Reflect

Share a good thing and bad thing from your last week.

2. Read

Read the passages from this week.

Romans 5:1-11

Psalm 98

Jonah 3

Luke 23:32-43

3. React

What stood out to you?

4. Wrestle

1. How can we be sure that our hope will not disappoint us? (vv. 5-8)

2. When did Christ die, and for whom did he die? (vv. 6-8)

3. How is God's love in Jesus deeper than any human love? (v. 7)

4. When will we be saved, from what, and how can we be sure of this salvation? (vv. 9, 10)

5. What does Paul tell us that we can boast and rejoice in together? (v. 11)

5. Relate

1. What are the relationships that matter a lot to you in your life? How much does it matter to you to know you're in right relationship with God? How are we called to help one another to care about our relationship with God?

2. Where, other than God, are you tempted to seek joy? What do you need to remind yourself about God in order to rejoice in him instead?

3. How does understanding that you've been justified by Jesus' blood give you assurance, help you to rejoice in God's grace, and strengthen you in your faith?

6. Respond

Pray for God to help us see and take the opportunities to share His gospel with others this week.

Praise:

Thanks:

Ask:



Oct 07	School Holidays FINISH	Nov 02	Pelican Point Service
Oct 12	Sunday School resumes	Nov 06	Session Meeting
Oct 12	VIP-Net Youth resumes	Nov 7-8	Presbytery Retreat
Oct 12	Growth Groups Resume	Nov 10	Widows 9.30am
Oct 13	Widows 9.30am	Nov 16	VIP-Net SEMI-FORMAL
Oct 14	VIP-Net Jr Resumes	Nov 17	CAMEOH 9.45am
Oct 16	Session Meeting	Nov 20	CoM Meeting
Oct 18	Leaders 2026 Planning 8.30	Dec 04	Session Meeting
Oct 19	Lord's Supper	Dec 07	Biloea Carols
Oct 19	VIP-Net Reunion Meeting	Dec 13	School Holidays START
Oct 20	CAMEOH 9.45am	Dec 13-19	AFES Summer Mission
Oct 23	CoM Meeting	Dec 18	CoM Meeting
Oct 25	CQ Men's Convention	Dec 25	Christmas Day Service
Oct 28	VIP-Net Jr Park Night		
Nov 1-2	VIP-Net Reunion		